

THE ROAD TO HOPE

Official Newsletter of the Road to Hope Community Support Foundation

Volunteerism

The non-profit sector in Alberta is often described as the province's invisible engine, and at the heart of that machine are the volunteers. For a group like ours, they are more than just an asset—they are the driving force behind every mile we travel on the Road to Hope.

In the vast landscape of Alberta's rural healthcare, the gap between a diagnosis and treatment is often the physical distance. This is why the role of a volunteer is so critical for us up here.

For many cancer patients, the journey to recovery isn't just a medical battle; it's a logistical one. Specialized treatments are often centralized in major hubs, leaving those in rural areas facing long, exhausting drives.

- **Removing Financial Barriers:** By providing no-charge transportation, we eliminate the financial toxicity of cancer. The hidden costs of fuel, parking, and vehicle maintenance that can cripple a household already dealing with medical leave.
- **Ensuring Consistency:** Research shows that transportation insecurity is a leading cause of missed appointments. When a volunteer driver signs up, they aren't just giving a ride; they are ensuring a patient doesn't have to choose between their health and their bank account.

Alberta has a proud history of volunteerism, with nearly 50% of residents contributing their time. However, the sector is currently facing a volunteer shortage. As the cost of living rises and the population ages, the demand for services like Road to Hope is increasing while the pool of available volunteers is dwindling.

The Impact of Time: In our world, we often measure success in dollars raised, but for a patient in Athabasca or Lac La Biche, success is measured in miles covered. One drive can be the difference between a patient receiving life-saving care or staying home.

Jessica Wallace | Coordinator

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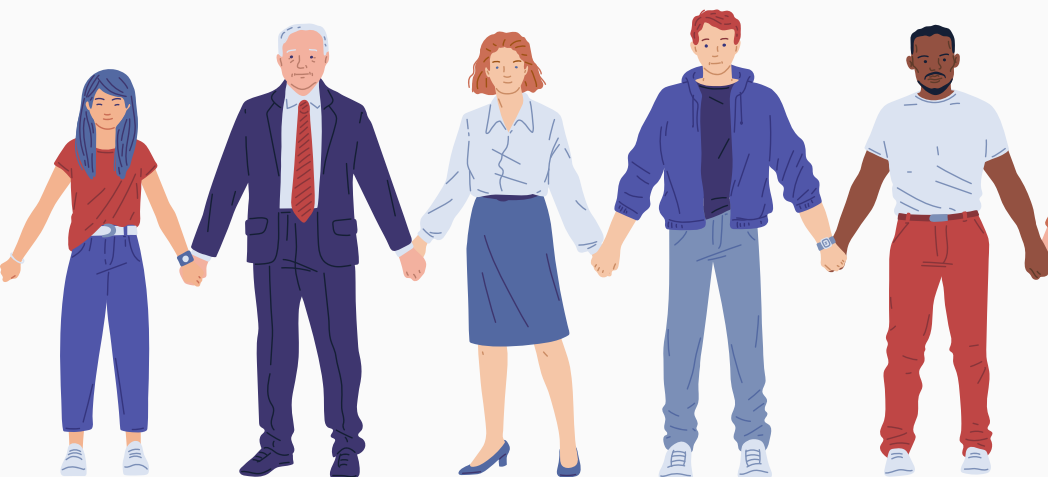
2026 Annual General Meeting

Our mission to provide barrier-free transportation depends on the strength of our community, and we want your voice at the table.

Please join us for our Annual General Meeting on May 12th at 7:00 PM at the Grassland Community Hall.

Whether you are a long-time supporter, a dedicated volunteer, or someone looking to learn more about how we serve cancer patients in our region, your presence is vital. This is a chance to hear about our impact over the past year, share your ideas, and help us steer the course for the year ahead.

We look forward to seeing you there and working together to ensure no one has to face the road to treatment alone.



**To give real service,
you must add
something which
cannot be bought or
measured with money.**

-Douglas Adams





3rd Annual Spring Scramble

Thursday, June 25th, 2026 Lac La Biche Golf & Country Club

This Texas Scramble style tournament will be one of our two annual golf tournaments that help to keep our doors open for services to the folks who need us. Sponsors will be recognized in various media and printed materials.

If golfing is not up your alley but you still want to contribute to our fundraiser, we are always in need of volunteers for the day. As well, we are seeking both in-kind and monetary donations to go towards our prizes for the golfers!



Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.

-Elizabeth Andrew

2026 Donors To Date

TOTEM CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

The intent of the Totem Charitable Foundation is to build healthy communities, inspire innovative thinking and encourage social progress. We award funds in support of education, community development, medical research and the arts.



Allard Foundation

A LEGACY OF CARING

Each and every one of us can make a difference in our community. Indeed, we all contribute in our own ways. It is for this very reason and with much pride that the Allard Foundation exists.

The Allard Foundation exists for the sole purpose of making Edmonton and Alberta a better place with funding advancing health, education, family and arts programs.



Driver Spotlight

My name is Joseph C. Maddison but mostly everyone knows me as Joey. I have been with Road to Hope since early October 2025. I am so glad that I joined them, I have met some of the most amazing people. I love to drive. The reason I was inspired to join Road to Hope was that I met some of the wonderful drivers and Board Members at the 2025 Road to Hope Golf Classic in Athabasca. Plus, I saw the attention to detail that Jessica put into the event, then found out she Coordinates for Road to Hope, so I knew this was a great fit for me.

But before that sadly cancer took my Mom. She had this gift - when talking to her, you felt like you were the most important person in the world. She always had inspirational things to say and asked questions. There was also a teacher named Ms. Sheridian who strongly believed I would bring happiness to others with my writing. My Uncle Dale and my Nan helped me learn to use the tools I was blessed with, and I learnt that they are for making the world a much better place.

I have done lots of trips to the Cross Cancer Center, Barrhead Cancer Clinic, Bonnyville Community Cancer Centre and various other locations. I have travelled just shy of 8,500 kms in my short time with Road to Hope. In that time, I have had drives that I just listened while my client talked, and some that involved lots of laughter, so much so that they made the comment, "oh, we are here already". There have also been deep talks with crying and a big hug at the end. But my favorite is building a bond with my clients, so when I see them again we pick up our conversation where we left off from last time.





**The best way to find
yourself is to lose
yourself in the service
of others.**

-Mahatma Gandhi

If you or someone you know is dealing with cancer and could use transportation assistance to get to their cancer related appointments, please call or text our Coordinator.

Our clients are more than welcome to have a companion accompany them if that will help make the trip more comfortable, still at no charge.

The trips may be for scans, doctor visits, treatments, picking up medications, so long as it is directly related to cancer. The trips are at no charge to the client.

We are in need of drivers for the Lac La Biche county. Our drivers are reimbursed mileage at the rates set by the CRA every year, and they may claim meal expenses. The schedules are also very flexible and set by the drivers themselves. Drive as much or as little as you want each month!

Get in touch with our Coordinator today for more information on how you can become a driver for us.

Jessica Wallace | Coordinator

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